7/18/74

Dear Davey,

Don Freed just called. Everything is set. The insurance problem with the package, meaning the RFK film, is resolved and the insurance contracts are signed. Don said that in a week or so you will be hearing from someone on the corporation that has been set up for this or these films.

Don said to figure out what we want in front. There will in addition be a contract for me to be research director-technical adviser, some such combination, for which he says the going rate is generally insultingly low, like $5-6,000, plus a percentage of the gross that he could expect to be something like $250,000 (amen!)

It is here where my inexperience and life style handicap me. I don't know a thing about it except to assume they are all crooks and I've been living on so little I don't really know what money is except when I have an emergency.

In terms of my immediate needs, I'll have another "underground" book ready soon. Printing it and mailing out the freebees will take about $5,000. A young friend was going to borrow it.

(Confidentially until it is all over, this is based on about 90 pages all stamped TOP SECRET that I have -PROPERLY on my part but with many questions in my mind about the government's part. I never do anything improper. There have been some subtle changes on which I build no real hopes. But if they are as deep as I think they can be this one thing can blow the whole JFK case. I would like to think you'd have time for us to talk about this, more for you and your wife and if she is up to a day in a pleasant environment. and if she has interests this serious.)

In terms of the movie, I think what they have in mind should eliminate your fears about turning the blocks off. It is somewhat flattering to me but it will deal with the investigator/investigation not the assassination.

Don't laugh too loud, friend. A novel was written (yes, published, too) about what I did before World War II. By an editor for whom I then worked.

While I feel a little uneasy about a movie about me, I feel a lot easier that nobody in Hollywood is going to go into the substance of the King assassination. I agreed entirely with your apprehensions as you expressed them so clearly to Don. As long as they leave me with a single head and don't do anything anti-social, my needs are such that I am looking forward to something coming of this. It will enable much other work and the publication of work already virtually completed.

If everything goes well I have a very unbelievable arrangement in mind. A college and a state historical society (prestigious in history and must our state colleges connected) want my work and me to do work. I've been holding out for the financing. This would make that possible and would assure a permanent archive for all the work I've done. I want this much. My work has been my one asset, so I've made no deal. If there is to be anything like Don indicates he hopes for in this, my interest will be in an arrangement with the college that will keep me going modestly, financed by this.

And I'd like to make some overdue repairs on the house, too.

I told Do to tell the person who would call that your answering service will answer for you.

If you will want me to come in, might as Tuesdays and thursdays are best for me. If I have to come in I'll give you a call.

Sincerely,

Harold